



State of Delaware  
Human Trafficking Interagency Coordinating Council



## **Actions and Recommendations on Human Trafficking in Delaware**

*Education and response  
through partnership  
to combat human trafficking*

Annual Report  
Fiscal Year 2021

Submitted - September 2021

"OUR LIVES BEGIN TO END  
THE DAY WE BECOME SILENT  
ABOUT THINGS THAT MATTER."

~ Martin Luther King Jr.

@JamiePelaez

*If you suspect a youth is a  
victim of trafficking, call the  
Delaware Child Abuse  
and Neglect Hotline*

**1-800-292-9582**

*Department of Services for Children,  
Youth and their Families*



**NATIONAL  
HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING  
HOTLINE**



**CALL**  
1-888-373-7888



**TEXT**  
"BeFree" (233733)



**LIVE CHAT**  
[humantraffickinghotline.org](http://humantraffickinghotline.org)

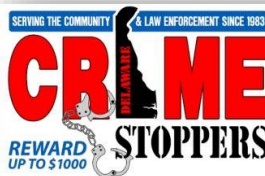
24/7 • Toll free  
Confidential  
200+ languages

**GET HELP • REPORT TRAFFICKING**



**Delaware State Police**

**1-800-VICTIM-1**



**Hotline**  
**1-800-TIP-3333**

**Web Tips**  
**Submit a Tip Online**

Links to smartphone apps, social media websites, etc. are not a substitute for 9-1-1. If you are reporting an incident that requires immediate police response, call 9-1-1.

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Please direct any questions about this report to Diana Suchodolski, Council Project Coordinator at [Diana.Suchodolski@delaware.gov](mailto:Diana.Suchodolski@delaware.gov)

For information about Delaware’s response to human trafficking activity please refer to this web page: <https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/admin/humantrafinteragcouncil.html>

## Acknowledgements

The unquantifiable toll due to COVID-19 in Delaware and beyond has left many in grief and poverty, and continues to do so. We acknowledge the extraordinary sacrifices made by frontline workers, who often risk their own health and safety to help others. We thank those Delawareans who work in the essential sectors like health care, including mental health and addiction treatment, law enforcement, emergency housing, public transit, grocery stores, and the list goes on.

The Council also wishes to acknowledge those who fight the trafficking of people in our State along with those who help its victims and survivors, including:

- ❖ Victims and survivors of trafficking themselves for their courage and strength, including those survivors who are willing to share insights from their lived experience in an effort to prevent more adults and children from becoming victims of exploitation;
- ❖ Victims' service providers for crisis support and ongoing trauma-informed services to victims and survivors;
- ❖ Victims' services advocates, in both the non-profit and law enforcement sectors, who help victims with compassion as well as dignity and respect;
- ❖ Members of the General Assembly who have sponsored and supported laws to fight the exploitation of people in our State; and
- ❖ Governor John Carney and First Lady Tracey Quillen for their support of our efforts, including Ms. Quillen's hard work to advance trauma-informed care in our State, so important for the victims and survivors of the trauma of trafficking and prostitution.

We are delighted to welcome nine new members to our Council, whose positions were created by HB 87, signed into law on June 15, 2021. It is especially noteworthy that Governor Carney has now appointed the first survivor of trafficking to serve as a member of our Council. We warmly welcome her and all the new members, who include four State legislators, three State agencies' representatives, and a Victims' Services Advocate.

## Dedication

We dedicate this annual report, with warm gratitude, to the five women who have served as Chair of the Council since the time it began in 2015. They are Deputy Attorney General Abigail Rodgers, Commissioner Loretta Young, Dr. Leslie Brower, Cara Sawyer, JD, and now, President Judge Jan Jurden.

### Abigail Rodgers, Deputy Attorney General



A veteran prosecutor, DAG Rodgers was the first Council Chair and served in that role from March 2015 to December 2016. Not only was Abby the founding Council leader, but she had no staff or other funding designated to do the Council's work. Her DOJ Secretary likely deserves thanks too for adding the Council's administrative work to her regular job. DAG Rodgers continues to serve as a Council member, and significantly, her role as Director of the DOJ's Family Division now includes oversight of the newly created Human Trafficking Unit. We are grateful for the many roles DAG Rodgers has played in anti-trafficking efforts over the years in Delaware. She brings that depth of expertise and experience to her important role as

Supervisor of DOJ's newly created Human Trafficking Unit.

### Commissioner Loretta Young



Commissioner Young of the Family Court is also an original Council member and continues to serve on it today. She has played a number of Council leadership roles. Com. Young led the Juvenile Committee from 2015 to 2017, served as Vice-Chair, and then served as Chair from December 2016 to 2017. Like DAG Rodgers, Com. Young had no financial resources with which to conduct the Council's work either. In addition to her contributions to the Council, Com. Young is a judicial instructor on human trafficking with the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Program at American University's Washington College of Law. She represents the Delaware Family Court in the NIWAP National Judicial

Network Peer-to-Peer Training Initiative on Human Trafficking. Com. Young is also an adjunct instructor at Wilmington University where she creates and teaches graduate level curriculum on trafficking for its Certificate Program in Human Trafficking and the new Behavioral Science Concentration in Human Trafficking Degree. Com. Young's contributions to this field are wide-ranging and long term.



### **Dr. Leslie Brower**



Dr. Brower is an RN and PhD who served as the first Chair of the Council after it was revamped into HTICC per HB 164. She served as Chair from May 2018 to September 2019. The revised state law established that DHSS would provide administrative support for the Council. Fortunately, DHSS contributed the expertise and talent of Dr. Brower, then an employee of the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH), to support the Council. Leslie juggled her Chair role with her DSAMH job's primary focus on trauma-informed care initiatives. Given the complex trauma and PTSD experienced by many victims/survivors of trafficking, Leslie was an astute choice by DHSS. Indeed, Leslie deeply increased Council members' knowledge about trauma-informed care while she also educated the rest of us in this State.

### **Cara Sawyer, JD**



Cara Sawyer, JD, chaired the Council from October 2019 to May 2021. Yet again, the Council was extremely fortunate that DHSS assigned a talented and dedicated professional to support the Council's work. Cara juggled her role as Council Chair with the demands of her full-time job as Chief of Staff for DSAMH. Cara was instrumental in connecting the Council and its Committees to experts in human trafficking, including those at the Villanova Law School's Institute to Address Commercial Sexual Exploitation as well as the Avery Center, co-founded by a trafficking survivor and a University of Northern Colorado professor. During her tenure as Chair, Cara arranged for a preliminary data collection study that was conducted by Dr. Dan O'Connell of the University of Delaware. In addition to this

academic outreach, Cara recognized and encouraged the essential role that survivors of trafficking need to play in this work.

### **President Judge Jurden**



Judge Jurden is another original member of the Council since its 2015 start. Even before the Council existed, however, Judge Jurden was working to improve the judiciary's response to trafficking. In 2011, she was an active participant in the Coalition for Health and Justice to address the problem of trafficking in Delaware. She also took the initiative to assist the former Delaware Human Trafficking Treatment Court (2012-17) in many ways, including by sharing federal grant funding, across courts, to help address the mental health needs of those traumatized by trafficking and prostitution. Judge Jurden has acted on her commitment to address trafficking in this State over the past decade, including serving in Council

leadership roles. For the past three years, since May 2018, Judge Jurden has served as Vice-Chair of

the Council. In May 2021, she became its Acting Chair when Cara Sawyer left DHSS for private practice. Judge Jurden has juggled the Acting Chair role with her responsibilities as President Judge of Superior Court very effectively. Her talent and hard work ethic, military-veteran grit and determination, combined with her kindness, diplomacy, and quick wit all add up to the great leader that she is. Nonetheless, President Judge Jurden may be looking forward to the upcoming election of a new Council Chair.

\*\*\*\*\*

These five Council leaders share a deep, abiding commitment to fight the trafficking of people in our State. Each of these women is a talented professional who made the decision to share her talents to help vulnerable victims of trafficking, an often-stigmatized group. Each Chair somehow carved out time to lead this Council despite holding a demanding job. No doubt, a great deal of the work done in handling their role as Chair was done on their own time.

Why do they do it? They care deeply about the serious problem of trafficking and have put that concern into action in their Council leadership roles and beyond. While they have not done this work for recognition, they deserve it. Our gratitude, long felt, has not been adequately expressed. We now belatedly, but warmly, thank each of these women for their dedicated service as leaders of Delaware's Human Trafficking Council - whatever its name and acronym at the time she served.

## **Council Members**

Chair (Vacant)

Vice-chair President Judge Jan Jurden (Acting Chair)

(\*New positions created by HB 87)

### **Survivor of Trafficking, Victims' Services Advocates & Healthcare Representative – 7**

#### **\*Victim/survivor of trafficking**

Heather McLeod – Victim/Survivor Advocate

#### **Victims' Services Advocates**

Yolanda Schlabach – Zoe Ministries, Non-profit Victims' Services

Melissa Pennachi – Newark Police Department, Police Victims' Services

Diane Glenn – Dover Police Department, Police Victims' Services

Deb Reed – Delaware State Police – Police Victims' Services

#### **Healthcare -1**

Annamarie McDermott – St. Francis Hospital

#### **\*Legal/Advocate for Victims of Trafficking**

Vacant (to be elected by Council)

### **\*Legislative Members – 4**

\*Honorable Kim Williams, House of Representatives

\*Honorable Michael Smith, House of Representatives

\*Honorable Nicole Poore, Senate

\*Honorable Bryant Richardson, Senate

### **Judicial Members - 3**

President Judge Jan Jurden - Superior Court

Commissioner Loretta Young – Family Court

Judge Katherine Mayer - Court of Common Pleas

### **Criminal Justice System Partners - 4**

Randall Hughes – Chief, Georgetown Police Department

Abigail Rodgers, Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice

Lisa Minutola, Esq. – Office of Defense Services

\*Christian Kervick - Criminal Justice Council



**Executive Branch Members - 6**

Trenee Parker – Department of Children, Youth & Their Families

Brian Moore –Department of Education

Dr. Michael Boone – Department of Labor

Mary McDonough – Department of Health and Social Services

\*Pam Lilly –Department of Transportation

\*Megan Miller – Division of Professional Regulation

## Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the current state of agency and system readiness to fight trafficking along with suggested steps to improve readiness. The Council also hopes to improve data collection systems to identify victims and survivors of trafficking, and importantly, to work towards addressing the gaps in critically needed victims' services. Of course, the Council has an overarching goal to prevent as many future victims of trafficking as possible.

### Chronology of Delaware's Council – to fight human trafficking & help its victims/survivors

The first *federal* anti-trafficking law, the Trafficking Victims' Protection Act (TVPA), was passed by Congress 21 years ago (2000). By 2014, all 50 states in the nation had adopted *state* anti-trafficking laws. A brief chronology of our Council's history follows:

- o June 2014 - Delaware's Human Trafficking law (HT law) was signed.
- o The 2014 HT law included a provision that established the Human Trafficking Coordinating Council (HTCC).
- o No resources were provided for this Council's operation.
- o March 2015 - HTCC held its first meeting and existed until 2017.
- o September 2017 – new HT law took effect. It dissolved the HTCC and established the current iteration, the Human Trafficking Interagency Coordinating Council (HTICC).
- o In terms of resources, the 2017 HT law required DHSS to provide “administrative support” to HTICC.
- o May 2018 – HTICC held its first meeting, chaired by a talented DHSS employee who juggled this role with her primary job.
- o DHSS has provided part-time staff assistance to HTICC for the past 3+ years.
- o To recap, Delaware's HT law took effect 7 years ago, two versions of a HT Council have existed, aggregating 5 years of operation. Neither Council has had funding to hire any staff itself. Since May 2018, DHSS has provided part-time staff support to the Council.
- o The annual reports submitted by both versions of the HT Council are found at the current HTICC web page.

This FY '21 annual report will summarize the Council's activities, primarily conducted through its five Committees, with staff assistance provided by DHSS. These activities will be highlighted in the Committees' sections of the annual report. Staff outreach activities will also be shared. A spotlight will be focused on the pioneering efforts of two state agencies and two non-profit agencies in anti-trafficking initiatives in Delaware. Legislative gains in 2021 will be summarized along with challenges and recommendations for the future.

## Highlights

The Council's reach expanded, not just in membership but also in partnerships, welcoming Jewish Family Services, People's Place Abriendo Puertas, and Social Contract, just to name a few. A qualitative data project was initiated with the Avery Center/University of Northern Colorado to conduct survivor-led research into pimp-controlled sex trafficking in Delaware. The Avery Center's research report is due by January 2022.

Council and staff members were finally able to engage in in-person awareness events such as National Night Out that spanned across all three counties. Street outreach also resumed with two projects initiated by staff, which they carried out with assistance from volunteers. The Nightlight Project and "The Kindness Project" will be further described later in the report.

## Challenges

As with other groups, the HT Council experienced a challenging year due to the ongoing pandemic. While Council partners, especially in the health care field, law enforcement, and labor among others, were stretched thin, the criminals have only increased their trafficking activities, especially online, during the pandemic.

The pandemic-related challenges are an added layer to the existing difficulties in anti-trafficking work. The pre-existing challenges include:

- o Need for designated, stable funding to hire full-time staff to support the Council in its efforts to comply with its mandates under Delaware's Human Trafficking law;
- o Along with its current focus on sex trafficking, the need for the Council to focus on the second prong of its statutory charge, namely, to address labor trafficking in this State;
- o Reluctance of victims to self-identify as crime victims and their fear of retaliation if they cooperate with the prosecution of their traffickers; and
- o Need for increased resources and coordination of anti-trafficking efforts by federal and state law enforcement agencies.

## Recommendations

1. Adopt an action plan to address the Council's priorities, with Committees taking on specific tasks. This action plan needs to address the various service systems' needs and challenges and provide criteria for *measurable progress* for both sex and labor trafficking. The plan needs to be clearly conveyed to its partner agencies as well as to the public.

2. Support efforts to implement evidenced-based approaches, including trauma-informed care, in the provision of services for victims and survivors of trafficking.

Steady, even if slow, progress continues to be made towards improving outcomes for people who have experienced trafficking in Delaware.

Finally, we hope that those of you on the frontlines, whether as victims' services providers and advocates or healthcare providers, law enforcement officers or community volunteers, remind yourselves, especially when you're worn down, that you are making a big difference. And, you are making a difference by helping folks who are among the most vulnerable in our community, be they children or adults.

For those whose paths do not necessarily cross those of victims and survivors but who also work hard on their behalf, be it as legislators or other policy makers or advocates, please remind yourselves that you, too, are making a big difference in the lives of vulnerable people in the community. This is a group of people whose voices are not typically heard in decision-making circles and are not a constituency with either political or financial resources. You advocate on their behalf, and importantly, help pave the way for survivors themselves to join their voices in the future with yours in advocacy on behalf of exploited people.

## Legislative Summary

The human trafficking-related bills passed by the Delaware General Assembly in 2021 are significant. The advances include second chances for victim/survivors of juvenile trafficking to the expansion of victims' compensation benefits for trafficking victims/survivors to the addition of Council members, including a victim/survivor of trafficking. As is evident, the common thread in this 2021 legislation is a focus on the victims/survivors of the serious crime of trafficking.

**[Please see Appendix A for the three 2021 bills].**

Let's take a closer look now at the two laws along with a bill that awaits the Governor's signature:

### **House Bill 9 - Gives Trafficking Survivors a Chance to Vacate/Expunge Juvenile Criminal Records**

Primary sponsor - Rep. Williams with additional sponsors - Sen. Poore & Rep. Longhurst.

This bill was signed into law on June 15, 2021. (Please see Appendix A for HB 9).

This law gives survivors, who were trafficked as juveniles, the chance to vacate their adjudications and expunge their criminal records. Clearly, this opportunity improves the ability of survivors to move on with their lives, including when applying for jobs or to schools, just to name a few.

Thanks to the opportunities now provided by this law, trafficking survivors have the chance for a court to hold that they should no longer carry the albatross of a juvenile criminal record for crimes committed as a result of having been trafficked. Vacatur and expungement would substantially improve the chances of these survivors to find jobs to financially support themselves and lead productive lives as adults.

Representative Kimberly Williams, Delaware House of Representatives



"I am grateful for the work of this group to combat human trafficking, to focus our collective efforts to reduce its prevalence, and importantly, to provide assistance to its victims/survivors. We have much more to do, but I am confident that your work is making a difference."

**House Bill 87 - Expands the Trafficking Council by 9 members, including a Trafficking Survivor and a Victims' Advocate along with 4 State Legislators and 3 State Agency Representatives**

Primary sponsor - Rep. Williams with additional sponsor - Sen. Poore

This bill was signed into law on June 15, 2021. (Please see Appendix A for HB 87).

This law adds nine (9) new positions to our Council, including the important addition of a victim/survivor of trafficking. This change is groundbreaking for the Council. For the first time, the voice and vote of a trafficking survivor will be heard and counted in Council decision-making. Also added is a victims' advocate who may be a legal advocate.

It is also noteworthy that the Council will, for the first time, include State legislators among its members. Two Representatives and two Senators will now add their valued perspective and experience into the mix of discussion and votes. The remaining three new positions are representatives of State agencies which have a significant role to play in the fight against trafficking. These agencies are the Criminal Justice Council, the Department of Transportation, and the Division of Professional Regulation.

The Council is delighted to welcome these new members. We look forward to the benefit of their talents, experience, and ideas to help us do a better job at fighting trafficking along with helping its victims and survivors in our State.

**House Bill 182 - Expands Eligibility to Trafficking Victims to Receive Victims' Compensation Benefits**

Primary sponsor - Rep. Williams with additional sponsors - Sen. Poore & Reps. Dorsey Walker and Griffith

This bill awaits the Governor's signature. (Please see Appendix A for HB 182).

Once signed into law, victims of human trafficking will be eligible for victims' compensation benefits. As the victims of the serious crime of trafficking, they certainly deserve to be eligible for victim's comp benefits.

**House Concurrent Resolution 6 – Recognizes January 2021 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Delaware**

Primary sponsor – Rep. Williams with additional sponsor – Sen. Poore



## DHSS Staff Assistance to Council

Since it began in 2015 to the present, Delaware's Human Trafficking Council has not had funds to employ staff itself. In fact, the first version of the Council that existed from 2015 to 2017 had no resources allocated to it.

In September 2017, the new amendment to the HT law dissolved the original Human Trafficking Coordinating Council (HTCC) and reestablished it as the Human Trafficking Interagency Coordinating Council (HTICC), the current iteration. This bill added a provision that the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) "shall provide the administrative support for the Council".

The Council is extremely grateful to DHSS for providing this support through talented and dedicated employees. Dr. Leslie Brower and later, Cara Sawyer, JD, added the Council's work to their primary jobs at the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH). Leslie and Cara each served as Council Chair during their time detailed to the Council. Fortunately, they were joined by dedicated part-time staff to help with the Council's work.

Diana Suchodolski started as a volunteer for the Council in 2018, and later, thanks to a federal grant (VOCA VF-2150), was hired as a part-time paid DHSS staff member. In December 2019, Julie Hammersley was added as a part-time paid staffer. DHSS funds for Julie's position are used as a match for the VOCA grant that fully funds Diana's position. Thankfully, this VOCA grant has been extended for an additional year to early 2023, but after that, the position will be lost if alternate funding is not secured. Each employee works about 15-20 hours per week in her Council-related job.

In addition to their part-time Council work, both Diana and Julie have other professional responsibilities. Diana serves as the Executive Director of *Meet Me at The Well*, a non-profit agency that provides support for survivors of trafficking. Julie works in a full-time job as an Admissions Therapist in a behavioral health hospital. The Council is fortunate to benefit from the deep commitment of each of these women to help the victims and survivors of trafficking.

During fiscal year 2021, the time period covered by this annual report, the staff support to the Council was provided by the following persons:

- ❖ Cara Sawyer – Chief of Staff, DSAMH, who also served as Council Chair until she began a job in private practice (May 2021)\*
- ❖ Diana Suchodolski – Project Coordinator
- ❖ Julia Hammersley - Planner/Administrator

\*In July 2021, Mary McDonough was hired by DSAMH as a part-time casual/seasonal employee to work on trafficking issues, including Council support. DHSS Secretary Magarik appointed her to serve as the DHSS representative on the Council to fill the position formerly held by Cara Sawyer.

The staff are grateful to DHSS, including the DSAMH leadership, for their abiding support since 2018. The new Division Director, Joanna Champney, has already shown a strong commitment to our anti-trafficking efforts, which is not surprising. A decade ago, she helped start the Coalition for Health and Justice, along with Basha Silverman and Mary McDonough, to help address human trafficking issues in Delaware.

Without minimizing, at all, the Council's gratitude to DHSS for its support, we also need to acknowledge the reality that there are still unfunded (or underfunded) mandates that this Council has yet to meet. Dedicated Council members and staff have made progress this past year, even with COVID-related challenges, but there is still a long way to go.

The statutory mandates given to this Council by the Governor and General Assembly are good ones, essential to making a real difference for victims and survivors of trafficking in our State. We hope that future resources are provided to the Council itself to permit hiring full-time staff to help the Council more effectively meet its responsibilities under the State Human Trafficking law. The Council's statutory mandates are listed as follows:

***Statutory Duties of the Human Trafficking Interagency Coordinating Council in accordance with 11 Del.C. §787 (k)(2). The Council shall:***

1. Develop a comprehensive plan to provide victims of human trafficking with services;
2. Effectuate coordination between agencies, departments and the courts with victims of human trafficking;
3. Collect and evaluate data on human trafficking in this State;
4. Promote public awareness about human trafficking, victim remedies and services, and trafficking prevention;
5. Create a public-awareness sign that contains the state and National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline information;
6. Coordinate training on human trafficking prevention and victims services for state and local employees who may have recurring contact with victims or perpetrators; and
7. Conduct other appropriate activities.

## Pioneering Work of Partner Agencies

In our small State, we strive for a collaboration of state and non-profit agencies, and other community partners to join together in the fight against trafficking. The Council commends the efforts of all our partners.

We also wish to highlight the groundbreaking work of four Delaware agencies. Two State agencies are undertaking initiatives in anti-trafficking work in their respective fields. And, two nonprofit agencies are expanding their victims' services to include the *first* residential programs in Delaware specifically for survivors of trafficking, one for adult women and the other for girls, aged 12-17.

The four agencies highlighted here are: the Delaware Department of Justice, DelDOT, Salvation Army, and Zoe Ministries. A detailed description of their initiatives, provided by each agency, follows. First, a brief overview:

- ❖ **Delaware Department of Justice (DOJ)** – A designated *Human Trafficking Unit* with the addition of 2 new Deputy Attorney General positions (1 - civil & 1 - criminal) under the supervision of DAG Abigail Rodgers, Director of the Family Division.
- ❖ **Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT)** - *Mandatory human trafficking (HT) training* for *all* its employees, including DART bus drivers. This large State agency is a leader among State agencies with its mandatory HT training program for its employees.
- ❖ **Salvation Army** - The **Restoration Now program** is Delaware's first residential program specifically for *adult* survivors of trafficking. It started in May 2019 and continues to expand its services.
- ❖ **Zoe Ministries** - Has purchased a property for Delaware's first residential safe home for *juvenile* female sex-trafficking survivors (ages 12-17). Planning for Hannah's House is underway.

### Kathy Jennings, Attorney General, State of Delaware



“I’m proud of the work that so many dedicated public servants and advocates are doing to disrupt human trafficking and to work against the forced labor and sexual slavery of humans, particularly women and children.

This year, I’m proud to say that we have built on years of work by deputy attorneys general and our incredible partners by organizing, for the first time in the DOJ’s history, a dedicated

Human Trafficking Unit within the Family Division. Human trafficking is a multifaceted issue. Human trafficking’s victims need unique support and holding traffickers accountable often requires highly sophisticated investigations and legal tools.

Combating this silent scourge always has been, still is, and must remain a group effort. Organizing a dedicated Human Trafficking Unit equips the DOJ to do everything in our power to support the multi-disciplinary, urgent work of the HTICC and all of our partners.”

The Human Trafficking Unit is the newest addition to DOJ’s Family Division and a further advance in the Department’s efforts to target resources toward the prevention, disruption, and prosecution of civil and criminal human trafficking matters. Previously, the DOJ’s Human Trafficking portfolio was a growing but largely informal series of collaborations between existing Units, Divisions, and outside partners in law enforcement and the nonprofit sector. Now, working closely with law enforcement, advocacy groups, witnesses, civil agencies, and other partners, Deputies in the Unit will be devoted to:

- ❖ investigating human trafficking cases, evaluating cases for appropriate remedial actions, and using any and all available means to obtain civil relief for victims
- ❖ prosecuting human trafficking cases across the State of Delaware
- ❖ working to enjoin ongoing human trafficking activity and to hold traffickers accountable through punitive sanctions (including civil penalties), and civil asset forfeiture through the use of the Delaware RICO statute
- ❖ deploying the State’s criminal nuisance abatement statute against the properties and ersatz businesses that facilitate and conceal human trafficking
- ❖ leading litigation in all Delaware Courts including Superior Court, Bankruptcy Court, and the federal District Court of Delaware — as well as through multi-state litigation where necessary or appropriate — to prevent human trafficking or secure penalties against human traffickers
- ❖ attend public events and manage public outreach, including engagement with the Human Trafficking Interagency Coordinating Council, to help prevent human trafficking and equip Delawareans to recognize and report human trafficking

Human trafficking is a complex issue that requires a multi-disciplinary approach on the one hand and increasing specialization on the other. While collaboration must continue to be the norm on this issue, the Human Trafficking Unit will help centralize the DOJ's enforcement actions, ensure more efficient caseload management, and enable the DOJ's staff to dedicate specialized training and experience to these deeply important, sensitive cases.

## Nicole Majeski, Secretary of Transportation



“The Delaware Department of Transportation is committed to educating our staff and customers on the signs of human trafficking and bringing awareness to this crime so we can put the brakes on human trafficking.”

The Delaware Department of Transportation (DeIDOT) is proud to continue our efforts to bring Human Trafficking awareness to the forefront. In 2020, DeIDOT created and implemented a mandatory Human Trafficking Awareness training for all staff. To date, 3,540 (97.5%) DeIDOT and DART employees have completed this training and it has been incorporated as part of the new hire orientation curriculum. The Human Trafficking Awareness training was also made available to all state agencies through the Delaware Learning Center.

In addition to our internal training, DeIDOT also promoted Human Trafficking Awareness on our social media accounts in 2021. Below are the graphics posted this year along with the statistics.

1



2



3



### 2021 DeIDOT Facebook Statistics for Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign

<u>Date Posted</u>	<u>People Reached</u>	<u>Engagements</u>	<u>Shares</u>	<u>Graphic</u>
January 8	2,167	19	3	1
January 11	3,455	38	12	2
January 15	3,996	41	15	3
July 27	1,765	17	5	1
August 5	1,999	8	0	2
August 12	2,301	28	7	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,683</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>42</b>	



2021 DelDOT Twitter Statistics for Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign

<u>Date Posted</u>	<u>Impressions</u>	<u>Engagements</u>	<u>Graphic</u>
January 8	1,234	10	1
January 11	822	3	2
January 15	975	20	3
July 27	757	1	1
August 5	849	19	2
August 12	903	15	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,540</b>	<b>68</b>	

Additionally, Human Trafficking Awareness posters are prominently displayed at the Smyrna Rest Area and the Biden Welcome Center on I-95.

## The Salvation Army Delaware

### Lauren Arnold, Anti-Human Trafficking Program Manager, Restoration Now



"Our role is to be part of the restoration process as we walk alongside survivors in their journey to heal and rebuild their lives."



The vision of Restoration Now is to build awareness of the human trafficking epidemic through outreach, training, and community partnerships. Restoration Now also provides emergency shelter and trauma-informed case management care to the people we serve.

#### Feedback from a Restoration Now Participant

"I am so thankful for the Restoration Now program. They had a big role in me making it out altogether, getting me somewhere safe and always being there when I need them. Being a part of this program also opened my eyes to working in this field to help other girls like myself. I speak about this program all the time but I am so truly grateful at how much it has helped me grow as a person. It's been a year and that year has been the best and toughest of my life. I couldn't do it without them or this program." – *Trafficking Survivor*

*Restoration Now has served 46 women since the inception of this program in May 2019.*

Restoration Now provides:

- Awareness and training
- Emergency housing
- Case management by trauma-informed staff, including:
  - Court accompaniment
  - Housing and employment search
  - Support groups and classes
  - Spiritual guidance
  - Internship connections
  - Educational guidance
  - Scholarship search
  - Collaboration with community partners
  - Life skills and mentoring

To provide clients in Delaware with medical, dental, mental health, legal, and other services, and guidance to heal and rebuild their lives, Restoration Now works in partnership, and supports collaboration among the people and organizations committed to identifying and serving trafficking victims in Delaware.

For more information, contact Lauren Arnold at 302-472-0743 or

[Lauren.Arnold@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Lauren.Arnold@use.salvationarmy.org)

The Salvation Army Delaware

400 N. Orange St.,

P.O. Box 308,

Wilmington, DE 19899



[www.SalvationArmyDelaware.org](http://www.SalvationArmyDelaware.org)

### Yolanda Schlabach, Executive Director



"The mission of Zoe Ministries is to provide safety, healing, and advocacy for those impacted or potentially impacted by sex trafficking"



# HANNAH'S HOUSE

## RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITY

### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Zoë Ministries will be opening a safe home in 2022 for juvenile female sex- trafficking survivors, ages 12-17 years.

Hannah's House, a Delaware state licensed residential treatment facility, will be a safe house exclusive to a maximum capacity of six female juvenile survivors of sex trafficking. Both Delaware and out-of-state residents will be accepted.

### PROGRAM FEES

Funding will be obtained through community and church partnerships, grants, and private donations.

### PROGRAM DETAILS

Situated in an undisclosed location for long-term residential living and care, Hannah's House will provide a case plan with wrap around services to meet the needs of each resident. Case plans will include individualized therapy and trauma counseling, equine therapy and mentorship, medical services, education, legal aid, employment and life skills, and spiritual studies, if desired.

Hannah's House will be staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with two staff members working simultaneously in eight-hour shifts. All staff and volunteers will be highly trained and trauma informed.

### PROGRAM PRINCIPLES

At Zoë, we live in authentic loving relationship, without judgment or condemnation. We persevere through struggles and overcome obstacles as a family.

As a faith-based organization, we give the option to incorporate scripture and discussion including Jesus Christ. We will respect where individuals are in their faith and never pressure them to conform to our beliefs.

## Committees

The Committee reports that follow provide brief summaries of the Committees' activities for FY '21.

- ❖ **Data Collection and Analysis Committee:** Chair, Christian Kervick, Criminal Justice Council, Executive Director
- ❖ **Juvenile Committee:** Co-Chair, Danielle Stevenson, Social Services Senior Administrator, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services, and Co-Chair, Jennifer Perry, Case Review Specialist, Office of the Investigation Coordinator
- ❖ **Public Awareness Committee:** Co-Chair, Diane Glenn, Victim Services Coordinator, Dover Police Department, and Co-Chair, Johanna Bishop, Ed.D., CPT, Wilmington University
- ❖ **Training Committee:** Chair, Annamarie McDermott, MSW, St Francis Hospital, Director, Care Management
- ❖ **Victim Services Committee:** Chair, Melissa Pennachi, Victim Services Coordinator, Newark Police Department

***[Please see Appendix B for the full roster of committee members]***

### Human Trafficking Interagency Coordinating Council

#### DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS COMMITTEE



#### LEGISLATIVE CHARGE

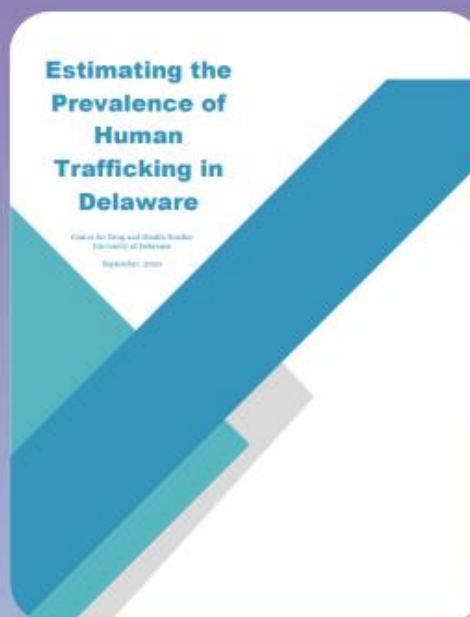


Collect and evaluate data on human trafficking in Delaware.

#### EXPLORING DATA COLLECTION IN DELAWARE

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Reviewed proposal for data project with survivor-led data and policy organization, The Avery Center, and the University of Northern Colorado to capture data for analysis of the demand of human trafficking in Delaware.
- The final report from the Center for Drug and Health Studies University of Delaware and the Criminal Justice Council was released with recommendations.



#### NEXT STEPS



- Continue to identify existing data sources, processes and mechanisms of collection of human trafficking data



- Develop a comprehensive cross-discipline human trafficking data collection tool
- Create timely reporting procedures and analysis techniques using the tool in order to continually inform decision makers



- Explore the 2019 International Classification of Diseases ICD-10-CM code utilization, "expected to strengthen data collection on incidence of and risk factors for trafficking, the burden of comorbid illness and injury, and resources needed to effectively care for trafficked persons." <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Macias-Konstantopoulos, W. (2018). *Diagnosis codes for human trafficking can help assess incidence, risk factors, and comorbid illness and injury. AMA Journal of Ethics, 20(12).*  
<https://doi.org/10.1001/amajethics.2018.1143>



## **Limitations and Recommendations noted from the 2020 UD report *Estimating the Prevalence of Human Trafficking in Delaware* <sup>1</sup>**

Thank you to the esteemed team of the Center for Drug and Health Studies, University of Delaware that prepared this report, Daniel O’Connell, PhD Principal Investigator, Rochelle Brittingham, PhD Co-Principal Investigator, David Borton, MA Research Associate, and Laura Mutis, MS Research Associate. The following are noted highlights from the report, but it is **STRONGLY** recommended that the full report be read to understand the methodology and tools used and to fully appreciate the challenges Delaware currently faces around collecting data on human trafficking.

### **Data Limitations**

“For various reasons – mainly related to restrictions set through organizational policy – a number of agencies and organizations were unable to share their collected individual level data. Other organizations were unable to share data because it did not exist. In some instances, the 22 organizations were lacking a robust system for collecting data in a uniform and central location, while in others they simply were not collecting information on victims of human trafficking whatsoever.”

### **The Uncounted**

“A recent (2019) report sponsored by the National Institute of Justice concluded that human trafficking incidents identified in law enforcement and social service agency records likely represented only a fraction of the actual incidence. The study found that the official trafficking numbers represented as little as 14 percent and at most 45 percent of potential total trafficking victims.”

### **Recommendations (*synopsis*)**

1. Full understanding and use of Title 11 §787 that defines human trafficking, in practices and approaches to addressing human trafficking.
2. A standard method of reporting trafficking cases across agencies and disciplines that protects the identity of a potential victim of trafficking.

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<sup>1</sup> Estimating the Prevalence of Human Trafficking in Delaware, Center for Drug and Health Studies, University of Delaware, September 2020, <https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/admin/files/htfinal2020report.pdf>

3. Identifying victims through comprehensive training across agencies and organization.
4. Expand capability to investigate cases of suspected human trafficking leveraging the expertise and experience of stakeholders.

### Estimated ranges

Table 6: Estimated ranges based on type of data	
Known Victims	
Adult Individuals	18-64
Minor Individuals	9-10
Aggregate Counts	23-38
2019 Range Total	41-113

Table 7: Estimated ranges based on type of data	
At-Risk Victims	
DFS Foster Care	277
Illicit Massage Parlor	150-250
Prostitution Arrests	94
2019 Range Total	521-771

*This program is supported by VOCA Assistance administrative funds, through the Delaware Criminal Justice Council by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime Award# 2017-VA-GX-0059. The findings and recommendations presented in this report are those of the authors and do not represent the official positions or policies of the USDOJ or the CJC.*

*Please refer to the full report to understand the methodology and tools used and to fully appreciate the challenges Delaware currently faces around collecting data on human trafficking. The full report can be accessed on the HTICC web page:*

<https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/admin/files/htfinal2020report.pdf>

## Juvenile Committee

### Human Trafficking Interagency Coordinating Council

#### JUVENILE COMMITTEE



#### LEGISLATIVE CHARGE

- No specific legislative charge; The Council convened the Juvenile Committee to ensure Delaware's response to youth who may be victims of trafficking continues to focus on access to appropriate resources and educational opportunities within a specialized system of care.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- A screening tool (Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool CSE-IT) has been selected and approved. Training and implementation is projected to occur Fall 2021
- Youth human trafficking awareness training is being developed for all DSCYF staff
- Intensive data collection efforts provide accurate data for analysis and trend observations

*If you suspect a youth is a victim of trafficking, call the Delaware Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline  
1-800-292-9582  
Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families*



#### NEXT STEPS



- Strengthen training and increase opportunities for foster parents to receive training on identifying youth victims of trafficking
- Explore ways to expand the service array for in-state services for victims which includes a search of best practices for trauma-informed services for post residential treatment.
- Summarize and report out on findings and recommendations regarding services for juvenile trafficking victims
- Continue to change the language around how victims are described (i.e. refer to victims as being "exploited" and not "trafficked")
- Produce juvenile trafficking infographic semi-annually and determine additional data that may be helpful to provide/monitor
- Work on developing an awareness program for at-risk youth served in facilities within DSCYF. The Committee will look at existing resources to see if an appropriate program currently exists
- Make training available to other systems on identifying signs of trafficking in juveniles

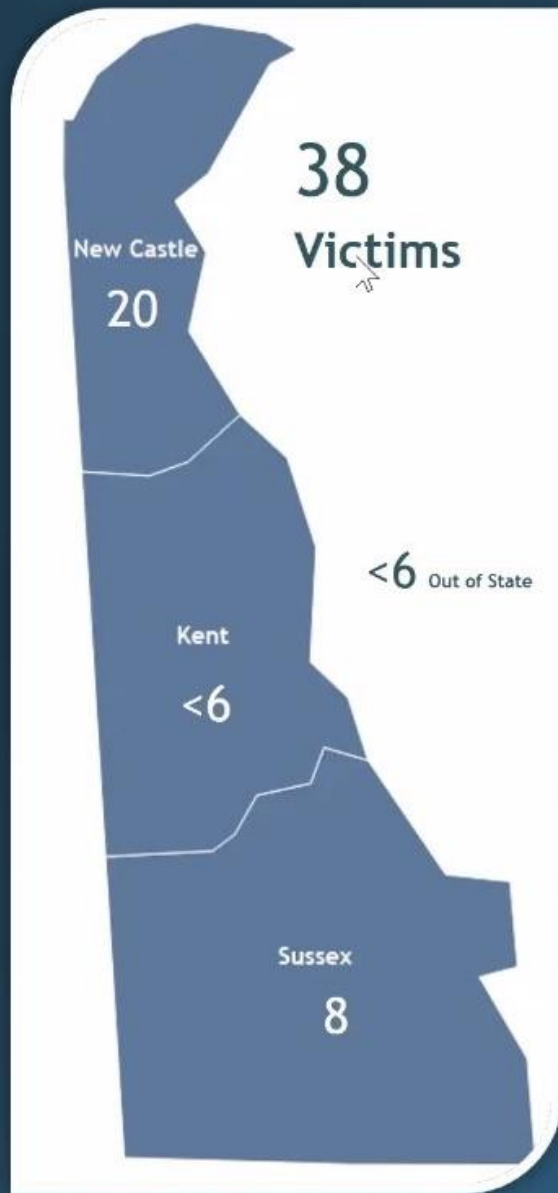
## 2021 Update from the Department of Services for Children, Youth, and Their Families

DSCYF continues to prioritize the identification of juveniles who have been exploited through trafficking. In late 2019, the Department embarked on receiving technical assistance through the RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice. Part of that technical assistance focused on identifying youth who were at risk of exploitation. Through that process, that also included the Office of the Child Advocate, the Department identified an assessment tool, the Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT), that will be used by staff in child welfare, juvenile justice, and behavioral health. The CSE-IT was developed by the West Coast Children's Clinic in California and training of Department staff will begin in the fall of 2021. Juvenile exploitation continues to be a maltreatment type for the Division of Family Services. Through the child abuse report line, 38 juveniles were identified as being exploited, with the majority of those juveniles being female and living in New Castle County. DSCYF continues to collaborate with the Office of the Investigation Coordinator to review data that is publicly available.





# Delaware Juvenile Trafficking Report



Victim Age Range: 4-18

Victim Average Age: 15

Most victims were female,  
while less than 6 were male. 2020

**Screened In:** Case meets the purview of the Office of the Investigation Coordinator (IC) and has been accepted to be monitored through the civil and criminal investigation of the allegations.

**Screened Out:** Case does not meet the purview of the Office of the Investigation Coordinator after review (e.g. out of state victim; adult victim).

**Screened in victims:** 31

**Screened out victims:** 7

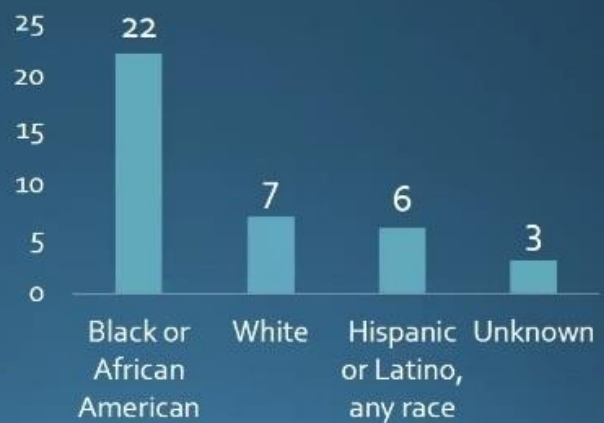
**Intra-familial case:** The alleged perpetrator is a caregiver or member of the child's household.

**Extra-familial case:** The alleged perpetrator is not a caregiver or member of child's household.

**Intra-familial victims:** 17

**Extra-familial victims:** 23

Victim Race



# Delaware Juvenile Trafficking Report

## Victims of Suspected Trafficking



Victim Age Range: 8-17  
Victim Average Age: 15

Most victims are female,  
less than 6 victims are  
male

**Screened In:** Case meets the purview of the Office of the Investigation Coordinator (IC) and has been accepted to be monitored through the civil and criminal investigation of the allegations.

**Screened Out:** Case does not meet the purview of the Office of the Investigation Coordinator after review (e.g. out of state victim; adult victim).

**Screened in victims: 15**  
**Screened out victims: 5**

**Intra-familial case:** The alleged perpetrator is a caregiver or member of the child's household.

**Extra-familial case:** The alleged perpetrator is not a caregiver or member of child's household.

**Intra-familial victims: 12**  
**Extra-familial victims: 8**



January - June 2021



## Public Awareness Committee

### Human Trafficking Interagency Coordinating Council

#### Public Awareness & Prevention Committee

@DEagainstHT



##### LEGISLATIVE CHARGE

- Promote public awareness about human trafficking, victim remedies and services, and human trafficking prevention. Create a public awareness sign that contains the state and National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline information.



##### HIGHLIGHTS

##### ❖ *Bringing Awareness to January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month:*

- "Why We Wear Blue" campaign
- Governor John Carney's virtual proclamation of Human Trafficking Awareness Month
- Op-Ed by 2021 HTICC Chair, Cara Sawyer
- DCADV guest blog by HTICC project Coordinator, Diana Suchodolski
- Light Up Delaware Blue! Legislative Hall and Department of Corrections



- ❖ DelDOT implements signage at all rest stops in Delaware
- ❖ HTICC is represented at National Night Out across the state
- ❖ The Salvation Army and Meet Me at the Well partner with HTICC to provide bi-weekly information sessions on human trafficking



- ❖ Virtual webinars by Wilmington University continue to educate the public

##### NEXT STEPS



- Identify sustainable resources and funding to provide materials for participating in community events and offering presentations
- Create a public calendar of annual events specific to human trafficking awareness in Delaware, such as the Red Sand project.
- Finalize layout of and distribution locations for public awareness signs
- Focus on education and awareness training for state employees who may be unknowingly be working with potential survivors/victims daily.

## 2021 Proclamation Signing and “Why We Wear Blue” Campaign

The proclamation video recognizing January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month was a wonderful tribute that allowed participants from all over the state to show their support as they wore blue. Thank you to Governor John Carney and First Lady Tracey Quillen Carney for your



thoughtful words of inspiration! Thank you to Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long, former Commissioner Mary McDonough, and Claire DeMatteis, former Commissioner of the Department of Correction, for participating in the virtual Proclamation Signing declaring January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month and urging all citizens to work together to put an end to human trafficking.

If you are reading the electronic version of this document, you may copy and paste this address into your browser to view the January Proclamation video.

[https://1drv.ms/v/s!Aq9M7eGI75W3gt0CS\\_KGYp\\_3F9WDrg](https://1drv.ms/v/s!Aq9M7eGI75W3gt0CS_KGYp_3F9WDrg)

**[Please also see Appendix C – Polaris Red Flags – Recognize the Signs]**

### Why We Wear Blue Campaign

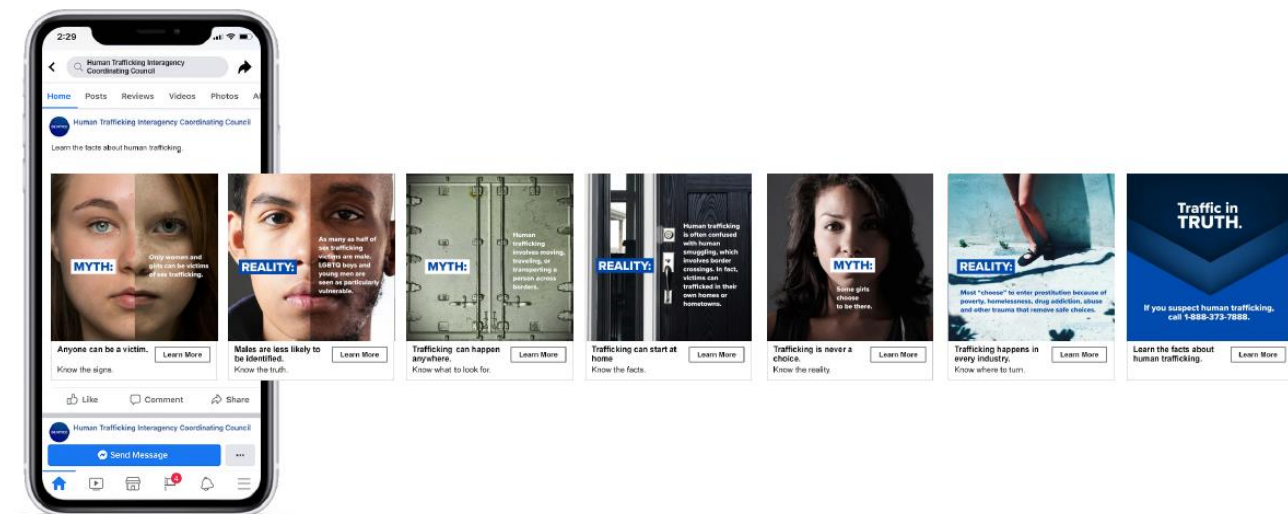
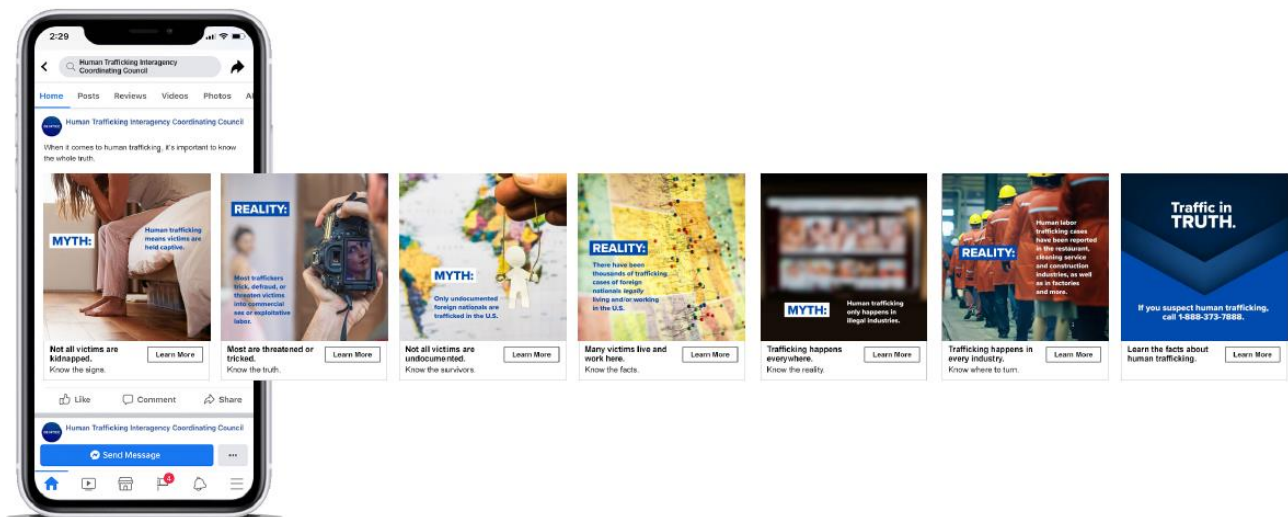
National Human Trafficking Awareness Day is recognized each year on January 11th. In recognition of this important day, and throughout the month of January, HTICC invited participation on social media to Wear Blue to raise awareness! Everyone did an amazing job wearing blue, posting photos, and tagging @DEagainstHT #DEagainstHT #WearBlueDay #EndExploitation on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.



### Public Awareness Facebook Campaign on Myths and Misconceptions

Your social media feed fills up with terrifying stories of children being snatched off the streets by traffickers, packaged in shipping crates or auctioned off online and sold to the highest bidder. Sometimes these stories are spread by well-meaning people who are truly concerned. Other times, they are being put forward by organizations and individuals with other agendas. (Polaris Project). It is important to know the reality of human trafficking, that is why HTICC sponsored a Facebook campaign to highlight the truth vs the common myths.

**[Please also see Appendix D – Myths vs Reality]**



Follow HTICC for more awareness efforts on social media



Website:

<https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/admin/humantrafinteragcouncil.html>



Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/DEagainstHT>



Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/DEAgainstHT>



Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/deagainsth/>

Letter to Members of the General Assembly that accompanied the book, “Paid For, My Journey Through Prostitution” by Rachel Moran, a survivor of sexual exploitation





Julie Hammersley,  
Planner/Administrator

January 12, 2021

Diana Suchodolski

## **The Complex Intersection of Human Trafficking and Intimate Partner Violence**

*Human Trafficking is when a person benefits from a minor engaging in a commercial labor or sex act OR uses force, fraud, or coercion against someone over the age of 18 to engage in a commercial labor or sex act (TVPPRA<sup>2</sup>). For the purposes of this article, I will focus on sex trafficking and will refer to this injustice of modern-day slavery / sex trafficking as commercial sexual exploitation.*

### **Fiction vs. Reality**

The film industry is a guilty co-conspirator in providing overwhelming interpretations of human trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation (CSE). Some are gratuitous but most are outright disturbing. The danger of these films is they can send the wrong message. Igniting passion for support is always welcome, but not at the risk of disempowering someone who is being trafficked. A victim of exploitation may believe their experience is not real “trafficking” if it does not fit what they see in the movie and they may be less likely to seek help (Bender 2020).

With that said, I was guilty of being pulled into the visual sensationalism of trafficking. The first “trafficking” film I watched was in 2005, “Human Trafficking” with Mira Sorvino. The film was not as salacious as other more popular modern films, but it had its fair share of inaccuracies. This film also made a painful connection for me that day that took the air out of the room and changed my path forever. Despite its inaccuracies, it brought back memories of confusing experiences within my own family. I remembered photos of a dear relative whose face that had beaten beyond recognition by a “boyfriend”. My mother went to court to support our relative that had been a victim of what appeared on the surface to be intimate partner violence. I remembered being terribly confused after I was told the relative had turned to prostitution because of drugs. We now know it had eventually become forced exploitation through the use of drugs and violence. These “situations” that had been mislabeled as abusive relationships, as ‘turning tricks for drugs’, as being ‘turned out’, were never named as trafficking because we did not have the language then, but it was very much commercial sexual exploitation. This scenario played out for more than one person in my family, and it was never discussed. It may never be discussed because of the shame and stigma attached to being in

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<sup>2</sup> The TVPPRA is a legislative package made up of four bills, including the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2018 ([H.R. 2200](#)), the Abolish Human Trafficking Act of 2017 ([S. 1311](#)), the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2017 ([S. 1312](#)), and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2017 ([S. 1862](#)). (Murphy 2019).

an abusive relationship, in addiction, and being forced into prostitution. I dove headfirst into understanding what we missed and have since been working towards what it means to prevent it.

### **How Does It Happen?**

A common myth is that victims are kidnapped into trafficking. In reality, traffickers take advantage of addictions, target oppressed or marginalized people, and target youth with emotional vulnerabilities. According to a 2019 report by Polaris Project, leveraging intimate partner/marriage proposition and familial bonds are by far the most common recruitment tactics. Promising someone a job as a massage therapist and then exploiting them in an illicit massage establishment is also a common tactic that we may see evidence of in our own neighborhoods. (Polaris Project 2019).

### **Why don't they just leave?**

The attachment in these abusive relationships is often referred to as a trauma bond. The cycle of affection and abuse, like what is experienced in intimate partner violence, is used to maintain power (Carnes 2019). In my experience as an advocate, these abusive relationships are also the most dangerous and difficult bonds to break for a survivor of sexual exploitation. For this reason, traditional shelters for survivors of intimate partner violence are not always a safe option. "Although the victim may disclose the abuse, the trauma bond means the victims may also wish to receive comfort from the very person who abused them." (PACE 2019). Another reason they may not leave is the threat of violence against loved ones or using children as collateral. Often, a victim may not realize what they are experiencing is even a crime or the trafficker has effectively conditioned them to not trust law enforcement or state providers.

### **Who is at risk?**

We are human and our greatest strength is also our greatest vulnerability; our need to love and be loved and cared for. People who feel abandoned, neglected, or have extremely low self-esteem are at risk. Our youth in foster care, runaway youth, and LGBTQ youth are especially vulnerable. Oppressed and marginalized people of color are also disproportionately impacted by trafficking as are undocumented migrants. (Polaris Project 2019). Traffickers are clever and build trust by studying posts made online, such as "No one understands me." Traffickers also target young people on dating apps and webcam sites popular with young people who are "sugaring" or escorting online. (Billau 2018).

### **What can we do?**

#### **Be informed**

Learn to identify the red flags and look beneath the surface of violence in relationships. Encourage youth and colleagues to participate in awareness events or workshops. Feel free to reach out at ([diana.suchodolski@delaware.gov](mailto:diana.suchodolski@delaware.gov)) or my colleague Julie Hammersley ([Julie.Hammersley@delaware.gov](mailto:Julie.Hammersley@delaware.gov)) to identify the most appropriate training related to your field. Visit and share the list of training opportunities on Delaware's Human Trafficking Interagency



Coordinating Council page. Rely only on verified sources of information such as the National Human Trafficking Hotline, Polaris Project, HTICC and survivor lead sources such as Rebecca Bender's "Trafficking Truths" <https://www.rebeccabender.org/>.

### Report it

If you see signs of trafficking, contact:

- National Human Trafficking Hotline, 1-888-373-7888 (TTY: 711) or text 233733
- Local Law Enforcement, 911 and Delaware State Police Victim Services, 1-800-VICTIM-1
- Local FBI field office (contact information can be found at [www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov)), or online with the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at [www.IC3.gov](http://www.IC3.gov)

To report possible trafficking involving minors, ALSO contact:

- Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth, and their Families hotline 1-800-292-9582.
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678) or at [Cybertipline.org](http://Cybertipline.org).

### Act

Seek volunteer opportunities or join committees of organizations that are doing work in prevention, survivor support, and outreach specific to human trafficking such as the subcommittees of the Human Trafficking Interagency Coordinating Council, YWCA-SARC, The Salvation Army's Restoration Now, Meet Me at the Well Foundation, Nightlight Project, Zoe Ministries, and People's Place. Reach out to your local representatives and ask them about Delaware's efforts in the prosecution of traffickers, protection of survivors, and the prevention of commercial exploitation in our state.

## Training Committee

### Human Trafficking Interagency Coordinating Council TRAINING COMMITTEE



#### LEGISLATIVE CHARGE

- Coordinate training on human trafficking prevention and victim services for state and local employees who may have recurring contact with victims or perpetrators and “to assist in planning, policy, goal and priority recommendations and developing implementation plans to achieve the purposes of the Council

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- The DHA Human Trafficking Committee continues to work toward implementation of its recommended human trafficking protocol, adopted by the committee in 2019, for all general acute care and pediatric hospitals across the state. This year, the committee worked to update the protocol's assessment questions to include labor trafficking-specific questions and assessment questions for juveniles ages 12 and up.
- While Covid restrictions did not allow law enforcement training to expand to new agencies, law enforcement trainers continued to provide instruction on human trafficking awareness for recruits attending the state police training academy.
- The Salvation Army and Meet Me at the Well transitioned to online trainings for community partners and providers.

#### NEXT STEPS



- Identify public and community members with existing trainings and identify possible gaps



- Build a resource database of available trainings on human trafficking, generally and for specific employee groups

- Identify 2 to 3 key agencies where there is opportunity for early identification and prevention and assess for training opportunities



- Collaborate with Victim Services and Juvenile Committees to ensure training on victim services is up to date and address specialized training needs

- Develop protocols for initial and on-going trainings on human trafficking awareness and victim services for state and local employees

## **Wilmington University**



Wilmington University continues to provide free online access to trainings, including monthly Human Trafficking Awareness Webinars as a replacement for its pre-COVID annual in-person symposium. In addition, Wilmington University has officially launched a certificate program - Human Trafficking Awareness: Help Stop the Human Trafficking Epidemic. Through Wilmington University's Dual-Credit Certificate in Human Trafficking Awareness, you will learn to recognize and respond to signs associated with human trafficking so you can work to create change, advocate for victims, and promote awareness of the human trafficking problem, both globally and in your community.



### **Other Trainings available by Discipline and Target Audience**

- For victim service providers and allied professionals - The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) [Understanding Human Trafficking](#)
- For Hotel Associated [ECPAT Training](#)
- [DelDOT / TAT training for Human Trafficking Awareness](#)
- [Trauma Informed Case Management and Comprehensive Care in Advocacy Webinar](#)
- [National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center \(NHTTAC\)](#)
- [Awareness Video for Professional Field Technicians](#)
- [Training Video for Licensed Health Professionals and the Interested Public](#)
- [SOAR and Beau Biden Foundation Trauma Institute](#)
- [The Salvation Army Training](#)
- [Trauma Informed Delaware Training](#)
- [National Human Trafficking Hotline \(SOAR Online Trainings\)](#)

*This list of suggested trainings is also available on the HTICC web site at <https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/admin/humantrafinteraqcouncil.html>*

## Victims' Services Committee

### Human Trafficking Interagency Coordinating Council

#### VICTIM SERVICES COMMITTEE

##### LEGISLATIVE CHARGE

- Develop a comprehensive plan to provide victims of human trafficking with services.

##### HIGHLIGHTS

- The committee deployed an in-depth questionnaire to help identify service providers and types of support available as they relate to the needs of survivors of trafficking
- The Juvenile Victim Services subcommittee provided guidance to the Child Protection Accountability Commission (CPAC) in reviewing a potential screening tool for identifying youth at-risk for exploitation.
- The Salvation Army and People's Place continue to provide emergent shelter for survivors of trafficking.

##### NEXT STEPS



- Compile data from questionnaire to develop resource reference of services for the larger community



- Collaborate to expand or develop victim services specific to human trafficking

- Continue to identify and distribute information about services to allied professionals and larger community



- Have ongoing roundtable discussions with service providers to discuss concerns, issues, and best practices for serving human trafficking victims and survivors



**ONE DAY YOU WILL  
TELL YOUR STORY  
OF HOW YOU  
OVERCAME WHAT  
YOU WENT  
THROUGH AND IT  
WILL BE SOMEONE  
ELSE'S SURVIVAL  
GUIDE.**

Brene Brown

## Victims' Services Survey

To support the development of a comprehensive resource guide for victim services in Delaware, an in-depth questionnaire was developed. Questions covered topics such as inclusivity, confidentiality, frameworks, trauma informed practices, and training received or provided by the interviewee. The Victim Services Committee kindly requests that any agency providing victim services in the State of Delaware reach out to the committee Chair, Melissa Pennachi at [mpennachi@newark.de.us](mailto:mpennachi@newark.de.us) to participate in the survey. Thank you to the following agencies that have participated, thus far:

- ❖ Jewish Family Services RISE
- ❖ A Center for Mental Wellness
- ❖ Federal Bureau of Investigation, Victim Services
- ❖ People's Place 2
- ❖ Contact Lifeline
- ❖ Community Legal Aid Society, Inc.
- ❖ The Salvation Army
- ❖ Wilmington Police Department

## 2021 Op Ed articles by Council members

In 2021, two Council members wrote compelling Op Ed pieces related to human trafficking.

For Human Trafficking Awareness month in January 2021, the Council's former Chair, Cara Sawyer, wrote an Op Ed article entitled, *"Anyone of Us Could be Mia"*, which told the story of a friend who became a sex trafficking victim. Cara's piece also provided good advice about treatment services for victims/survivors of trafficking as well as "red flags" for identifying trafficking.

Please read this article in **Appendix E**.

A newly appointed Council member, Representative Kim Williams, co-authored an Op Ed piece with State Senator Sandy Pappas, MN, entitled, *"We are lawmakers from 5 states that finally put an end to child marriage. It's past time for the other 45 US states to follow lead."* This article ran July 11, 2021.

Thanks to Rep. Williams, Delaware became the first state in the nation to ban marriage under the age of 18, with no exceptions. She was the prime sponsor of HB 337, which Governor Carney signed into law May 9, 2018. Now, Rep. Williams is spreading the message to other states, including visiting them, to advocate for their adoption of this measure to protect minors.

Please read this article in **Appendix F**. The article can also be found at:  
<https://news.yahoo.com/lawmakers-5-states-finally-put-130400168.html>

Please also see a related article in **Appendix G**, the Teen Vogue article, entitled, *"Delaware Became the First State to Ban Child Marriage and New Jersey Could be Next"*  
<https://www.teenvogue.com/story/delaware-first-state-ban-child-marriage-new-jersey-next>



## Outreach – Staff Initiatives

Each of our two part-time DHSS staff members initiated outreach projects that were conducted in FY 21.

### NIGHTLIGHT PROJECT by Julie Hammersley

The Nightlight project was founded in 2019 by Julie Hammersley, who is a survivor leader. Based on her experience, Julie has a good sense of what victims really need, and she recruits allies to join her efforts. Again, this past year, Julie organized street outreach events on a statewide basis. Joined by volunteers, Julie and Diana distributed about 200 backpacks/tote bags filled with health and hygiene products, comfort items, and importantly, a handwritten letter of hope for each recipient of a backpack. Of course, a night light, the namesake of this project, was also included.



Julie continues this outreach work every quarter, providing comfort and resources to people who are experiencing exploitation and are often afraid to seek help. Not everyone feels safe to seek help right away, but the Nightlight Project's tote bags/ backpacks - with handwritten notes - plant a seed to let vulnerable people know they are not alone along with resources letting them know where they can get go for help.

### The Kindness Project by Diana Suchodolski



This project was started by Diana based on the realization that it is not always easy to identify if someone is being trafficked. The indicators can look like intimate partner violence, a young person with an older “boyfriend”, or an agricultural worker in the ER, when seriously injured.

It is often unlikely that we would recognize a victim of trafficking just walking down the street or sitting in the ER waiting room next to the young woman with the controlling older “uncle”. Trafficking is often “invisible in plain view”, as the saying goes.

Diana wished to increase awareness of the “red flags” of trafficking. She worked with the Public Awareness Committee to create a discrete business-card sized indicator card. It is placed in a mini medical kit to be used in any type of outreach bag.

**[See Appendix H to print out your own “Kindness Project” cards].**



## Appendix

### Appendix A. 2021 Legislation

#### **House Bill 9 - AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 11 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO CRIMES.**

Synopsis: “This Act adds the term ‘adjudication’ to this section of the criminal code to enable juvenile defendants to petition the court for their adjudications of delinquency to be vacated and their juvenile criminal record to be expunged in regard to crimes, other than defined violent felonies, committed as a direct result of being victims of human trafficking.”

[House Bill 9 Detail - Delaware General Assembly](#)

#### **House Bill 87 - A N ACT TO AMEND TITLE 11 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL.**

Synopsis: “This bill increases the membership of the Human Trafficking Interagency Coordinating Council to 24 members by adding representatives from the House of Representatives, the Senate, the Criminal Justice Council, the Department of Transportation, and the Division of Professional Regulation, a person who has been a victim of human trafficking, and a person who has prior experience working with victims of human trafficking in a legal or advocacy capacity. This bill also changes the quorum for the Council from 7 members to 13.”

[House Bill 87 Detail - Delaware General Assembly](#)

#### **House Bill 182 - AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 11 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO VICTIMS OF CRIMES.**

Synopsis: “The Victims’ Compensation Assistance Program (“Agency” or “VCAP”) administers the Victims’ Compensation Fund and provides financial assistance to eligible victims of crimes to help cover the costs of a variety of services that help victims and their families begin to rebuild their lives, including lost wages, medical expenses, payment for mental health counseling, and funeral expenses. By awarding financial compensation for losses that victims sustain as a result of crime, VCAP can help alleviate the financial burden and distress that crime leaves behind. In FY 2019, VCAP paid \$2,091,787.94 to and on behalf of victims of crime. VCAP is solvent and the Victims’ Compensation Fund balance as of June 30, 2020 was \$4,155,111.82. This Act seeks to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of VCAP in the following ways: (1) Lifts the statutory employment cap that limited the number of employees VCAP could employ. This update will enable the Department of Justice to augment VCAP staff by utilizing grant or federal funding. (2) Codifies benefits and more clearly enumerates available benefits and increases the funeral and burial benefit to \$5,000/\$2,500, respectively. (3) Makes several changes to conform to the current practice, including removing the claims payment process description in § 9005(8) and § 9009, updating the claims application process

in § 9009, and removing the reporting requirements in § 9017. (4) Amends § 9009(10) to give the Agency specific authority to close inactive claims. (5) Updates the list of Advisory Council members to reflect the dissolution of the Sexual Assault Network of Delaware, which became the Delaware Alliance Against Sexual Violence.

(6) Expands the population of victims able to be served, including changes to ensure victims of human trafficking are eligible for compensation. (7) Extends the deadlines to request reconsideration and file an appeal with the Appeals Board and reorganizes appeals process provisions by placing them all in the same section. (8) Changes "offense date" to "sentencing date" in § 9014(c). (9) Updates the chapter so that each program is referred to by a consistent name. (10) Adds defined terms "Executive Director" and "claimant" to the definitions section and further clarifies to which category of victims parts of the Code apply. (11) Removes the term "incompetent" in favor of adopting a phrase that uses people first language. This Act also makes technical corrections to conform existing law to the standards of the Delaware Legislative Drafting Manual."

[House Bill 182 Detail - Delaware General Assembly](#)

## **Appendix B. Roster of Committee Members**

### **Data Committee**

#### **Christian Kervick, Executive Director, CJC - Chair**

Susan Alfree - US Attorney's Office, Victims' Services

Annamarie McDermott, MSW, St Francis Hospital, Director, Care Management

Bishop, Johanna, Ed.D., CPT, Director, Behavioral Science, Wilmington University

Joanna Champney, Director, DSHAMH

Randall Hughes, Police Chief, Georgetown Police Department

Spencer Price, Director, Statistical Analysis Center

Earl McCloskey, Executive Director, DELJIS

Maureen Monagle, Executive Director, DVCC

Dr. Daniel O'Connell UD Center for Drug and Health Studies

Trenee Parker, DSCYF

JoAnn Santangelo (Courts)

Diana Suchodolski Exec. Director, Meet Me at the Well, and Project Coordinator, DHSS

Philisa Weidlein, DOC

Tanya Whittle, Courts

### **Training Committee**

#### **Annamarie McDermott, MSW, St Francis Hospital, Director Care Management – Chair**

Patricia Danner, Regional Outreach Specialist, US DHHS

Andrew Wilson, Training and Education, DSAMH

Johanna P. Bishop, Ed.D., CPT, Director, Behavioral Science, Wilmington University

Corrie Schmitt, DSP, Victim Services

Sharon Stevens, Zoe Ministries

Brian Moore, Program Manager, DOE

Diana Suchodolski, Exec. Director, Meet Me at the Well & DHSS

T'Nika Wilmore, Medical Component Manager, Industrial Affairs, DOL

Debbie Litten, YWCA Delaware, New Castle Coordinator

Joshua Rowley, Detective, Delaware State Police

Diane Glenn, Victim Services Coordinator, Dover Police Dept.

Lauren Arnold, Program Manager, Restoration Now, Salvation Army

Cecilia Ahanonu, PA-C, Nemours/Al Dupont

### **Public Awareness Committee**

#### **Diane Glenn, Victim Services Coordinator, Dover PD - Chair**

Dr. Johanna Bishop, Ed.D., CPT, Director, Behavioral Science, Wilmington University

Erin Connelly, Victim Services, DOC

Katherine Gianonne, DSCYF

Kelly Head, Staff Attorney, Community Legal Aid Society, Inc.

Kimberly Murphy, Child Welfare Program Specialist, HHS/ACF/Children's Bureau, Region 3  
Kimberly Williams, State Representative, 19th District, Delaware General Assembly  
Mary McDonough, Policy Director, DHSS  
Julie Hammersley, Admissions Therapist, Sun Behavioral Health & Administrative Planner, DHSS  
Debbie Litten, YWCA Delaware, New Castle Coordinator  
Stephanie Johnson, Asst. Director, Decision and Data Support, DelDOT  
Nancy Will, Victim Services Specialized Caseload Coordinator, DSP  
Sonia Murrey, Wilmington University  
T’Nika Wilmore, Del DOL

#### **Victim Services Committee**

##### **Melissa Pennachi, Victim Services Coordinator, Newark PD– Chair**

Amanda Alcaraz, Trainer/Educator, DVCC  
Susan Alfree, U.S. Attorney’s Office, Victims’ Services  
Debra Reed, Director of Victim Services, DSP  
Nancy Will, Victim Services Specialized Caseload Coordinator, DSP  
Aimee String, Criminal Justice Planner, Domestic Violence Coordinating Council  
Lauren Arnold, Program Manager, Restoration Now, Salvation Army  
Diana Suchodolski Exec. Director, Meet Me at the Well, and Project Coordinator, DHSS

#### **Juvenile Committee Members**

##### **Danielle Stevenson, DSCYF –Co-Chair (designee)**

##### **Jennifer Perry, DSCYF – Co-Chair (designee)**

Trenee Parker, Director, DSCYF  
Lauren Arnold, Program Manager, Restoration Now, Salvation Army  
Sarah Azevedo, DSCYF  
Renee Birney, DSCYF  
Ryan Brabson, DSCYF  
Shana Cipparone, Office of the Child Advocate  
Bernadette Clagg, Nemours  
Nelson Collins III, FBI  
Jennifer Cooper, Nemours  
Sophia Cywinski, DSCYF  
Periann Doko, DAG, Department of Justice  
Tina Fountain, DSCYF  
Tracey Frazier, DSCYF  
Brie Gannon, Criminal Justice Council  
Katherine Giannone, DSCYF  
Julie Hammersley, Admissions Therapist, Sun Behavioral Health & Administrative Planner, DHSS

Ron Handy, Boys and Girls Club of DE  
Olivia Hearne, DSCYF  
Andrea Johnson, DAG, Department of Justice  
Tanya Johnson, Pressley Ridge  
Elisa Lehman, FBI, Victims' Services  
Anthony Longo, DAG Department of Justice  
Lisa Minutola, Chief of Legal Services, Office of Defense Services  
Brian Moore, Program Manager, DOE Department of Education  
Susan Murray, DSCYF  
Rachael Neff, Family Court  
Melissa Palokas, Office of the Child Advocate  
Trinette Redinger Ramsey, DSCYF  
Abigail Rogers, DAG, Director, Family Division, DOJ  
Joshua Rowley, Det., Delaware State Police  
JoAnn Santangelo, Family Court  
Yolanda Schlabach, Exec. Director, Zoë Ministries  
Syreeta Scott, DSCYF  
Natasha Simms, DSCYF  
Alice Stevens, Holistic Elevation  
Sharon Stevens, Zoë Ministries  
Diana Suchodolski, Exec. Director, Meet Me at the Well, and Project Coordinator, DHSS  
Sarah Wood, DSCYF  
Colleen Woodall, DSCYF  
Michele Yingling, DSCYF  
Loretta Young, Commissioner, Family Court

## Appendix C. Polaris Red Flags – Recognize the Signs

Source: <https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/recognize-signs>

**Are you or someone you know being trafficked? Is human trafficking happening in your community? Recognizing potential red flags and knowing the indicators of human trafficking is a key step in identifying more victims and helping them find the assistance they need.**

**To request help or report suspected human trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888. Or text HELP to: BeFree (233733).**

**This list is not exhaustive and represents only a selection of possible indicators. Also, the red flags in this list may not be present in all trafficking cases and are not cumulative. Learn more at [www.humantraffickinghotline.org](http://www.humantraffickinghotline.org).**

Common Work and Living Conditions: The individual(s) in question

- Is not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes
- Is under 18 and is providing commercial sex acts
- Is in the commercial sex industry and has a pimp / manager
- Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- Works excessively long and/or unusual hours
- Is not allowed breaks or suffers under unusual restrictions at work
- Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off
- Was recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of his/her work
- High security measures exist in the work and/or living locations (e.g. opaque windows, boarded up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, security cameras, etc.)

Poor Mental Health or Abnormal Behavior

- Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
- Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up law enforcement
- Avoids eye contact

Poor Physical Health

- Lacks health care
- Appears malnourished
- Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture

Lack of Control

- Has few or no personal possessions
- Is not in control of his/her own money, no financial records, or bank account
- Is not in control of his/her own identification documents (ID or passport)
- Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating)

Other

- Claims of just visiting and inability to clarify where he/she is staying/address
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or do not know what city he/she is in
- Loss of sense of time
- Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story

## Appendix D. Myths vs. Reality

### ***Myth: It's always or usually a violent crime***

- **Reality:** By far the most pervasive myth about human trafficking is that it always - or often - involves kidnapping or otherwise physically forcing someone into a situation. In reality, most human traffickers use psychological means such as tricking, defrauding, manipulating or threatening victims into providing commercial sex or exploitative labor.

### ***Myth: All human trafficking involves commercial sex***

- **Reality:** Human trafficking is the use of force, fraud, or coercion to get another person to provide labor or commercial sex. Worldwide, experts believe there are more situations of labor trafficking than of sex trafficking. However, there is much wider awareness of sex trafficking in the United States than of labor trafficking.

### ***Myth: Only undocumented foreign nationals get trafficked in the United States***

- **Reality:** Polaris has worked on thousands of cases of trafficking involving foreign national survivors who are legally living and/or working in the United States. These include survivors of both sex and labor trafficking.

### ***Myth: Human trafficking only happens in illegal or underground industries***

- **Reality:** Human trafficking cases have been reported and prosecuted in industries including restaurants, cleaning services, construction, factories and more.

### ***Myth: Only women and girls can be victims and survivors of sex trafficking***

- **Reality:** One study estimates that as many as half of sex trafficking victims and survivors are male. [Advocates believe that percentage may be even higher](#) but that male victims are far less likely to be identified. LGBTQ boys and young men are seen as particularly vulnerable to trafficking.

### ***Myth: Human trafficking involves moving, traveling, or transporting a person across state or national borders***

- **Reality:** Human trafficking is often confused with human smuggling, which involves illegal border crossings. In fact, the crime of human trafficking does not require any movement whatsoever. Survivors can be recruited and trafficked in their own hometowns, even their own homes.

### ***Myth: All commercial sex is human trafficking***

- **Reality:** All commercial sex involving a minor is legally considered human trafficking. Commercial sex involving an adult is human trafficking if the person providing commercial sex is doing so against his or her will as a result of force, fraud, or coercion.

Reference: The National Human Trafficking Hotline <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/what-human-trafficking/myths-misconceptions>



***Myth: If the trafficked person consented to be in their initial situation, then it cannot be human trafficking or against their will because they “knew better”***

- **Reality:** Initial consent to commercial sex or a labor setting prior to acts of force, fraud, or coercion (or if the victim is a minor in a sex trafficking situation) is not relevant to the crime, nor is payment.

***Myth: People being trafficked are physically unable to leave their situations/locked in/held against their will***

- **Reality:** That is sometimes the case. More often, however, people in trafficking situations stay for reasons that are more complicated. Some lack the basic necessities to physically get out - such as transportation or a safe place to live. Some are afraid for their safety. Some have been so effectively manipulated that they do not identify at that point as being under the control of another person.

***Myth: Labor trafficking is only or primarily a problem in developing countries***

- **Reality:** Labor trafficking occurs in the United States and in other developed countries but is reported at lower rates than sex trafficking.

***Myth: Traffickers target victims they don't know***

- **Reality:** Many survivors have been trafficked by romantic partners, including spouses, and by family members, including parents.

*Reference: The National Human Trafficking Hotline <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/what-human-trafficking/myths-misconceptions>*

*For further reading or to reference additional credible sources:*

“Trafficking truths”, Rebecca Bender, free e-book  
[www.rebeccabender.org](http://www.rebeccabender.org)

Myth and Facts About Trafficking, Office on Trafficking In Persons (ACF/HHS)  
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/about/myths-facts-human-trafficking>

Myths, Facts, and Statistics, Polaris  
<https://polarisproject.org/myths-facts-and-statistics/>

## Appendix E. Op-ed by Cara Sawyer, Former Chair of the Council

*A sincere Thank You to Delaware and regional media outlets for your commitment to ethical and research-based reporting on a topic that is often exploited for sensational interest.*

### Delaware Human Trafficking Awareness Month

OP-ED by Cara Sawyer



January 1st marks the start of National Human Trafficking Awareness Month. As the Chair of the Delaware Human Trafficking Interagency Coordinating Council (HTICC), I would like to take this opportunity to discuss with you what human trafficking is, what it looks like, and what you can do to help individuals who are being trafficked or are at risk of being trafficked.



Human trafficking is the business of stealing another person's freedom for profit. This multibillion-dollar criminal industry denies freedom to over 25 million people globally. The most common forms are labor and sex trafficking. Contrary to popular belief, human trafficking doesn't have to include taking a person against their will. In fact, most victims report that they were trafficked by someone close to them. Victims are often hidden in plain sight.

You likely already have, or will, encounter someone in a situation of concern. Let me share a story about someone I know who survived.

My friend, Mia, experienced sex trafficking as a young adult, although nothing about her upbringing was out of the norm. She was born into a nice family, in a nice town, but struggled with self-worth. Mia craved attention and longed to be desired, like many 19-year-old girls. When she met the man who would become her trafficker, she was drawn to him because she thought he led an exciting life filled with drugs and sex. Before long, this man whom she believed loved her, had seduced her into having sex with others for money. She gave up her old life and was dependent on this man for love, affection, food, shelter, money, and drugs. At this point, Mia had become addicted to narcotics, which he used to manipulate her. Mia lived like this for 10 years and was raped nearly 20 times.

Today, Mia has been in recovery for 12 years, and is working toward her second master's degree. She works with those who have substance use and mental health challenges. She has family and friends that support and care about her. She has committed her life to help trafficking victims escape and to promote awareness of the issue.

Knowing how to spot the signs could save lives. Here are three ways you can help in the fight against human trafficking:

1. If you are a victim, you can get out. Call the Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888. There are several organizations, like Hope for Justice, that exist to bring an end to modern slavery by preventing exploitation, rescuing victims, restoring lives, and reforming society. For a listing of resources:

<https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/admin/humantrafinteragcouncil.html>

2. Identify red flags and indicators. Recognizing key indicators of human trafficking is the first step in identifying victims that can lead to helping to save a life. You can spread the word and raise awareness locally by volunteering with anti-trafficking organizations in your community. Our website can link you to opportunities to help: <https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/admin/humantrafinteragcouncil.html> You can also follow us on social media. On Instagram it is @deagainstht and on Twitter, @DEAgainstHT, and on Facebook, find us at Delaware Human Trafficking Interagency Coordinating Council.

3. If you work in the health care field, especially behavioral health, there are a number of local and government resources you can promote and share with your clients. Annually, the Department of Homeland Security recognizes January 11th as #WearBlueDay in recognition of human trafficking awareness. Consider organizing a campaign among your colleagues and coworkers to include virtual events, resource distribution, and social media. The Delaware Healthcare Association recommends the use of the Human Trafficking Protocol for screening and identifying possible victims. Information on the protocol can be found on the Delaware Healthcare Association's website at <https://deha.org/resources>

I hope you take a moment to learn more about Human Trafficking this month. Whether it is becoming involved in a local or national organization, coordinating a #WearBlueDay with your place of employment, or even just talking about it with friends or family. With an increase in awareness and knowledge, we can truly make a difference.

When she wrote this article, Cara Coyne Sawyer, JD, was the Chief of Staff for the Department of Health and Social Services' Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health and served as the Chair of the Human Trafficking Interagency Coordinating Council.

## **Appendix F. Opinion article by Rep. Williams & Sen. Pappas, “We are lawmakers from 5 states that finally put an end to child marriage. It's past time for the other 45 US states to follow our lead”.**

July 11, 2021, Business Insider, Sen. Sandra Pappas and Rep. Kim Williams



Bipartisan legislators who ended child marriage in five states call on their colleagues in the other US states to follow their lead.

- Child marriage creates a legal trap for minors, who often cannot file for divorce. Don't cave to loopholes or compromises; there is no reason for marriage before age 18.
- State Representative Kim Williams has served in the Delaware General Assembly since 2012.
- Senator Sandy Pappas has served in the Minnesota Senate since 1990.

This is an opinion column. The thoughts expressed are those of the authors. We are lawmakers from 5 states that finally put an end to child marriage. It's past time for the other 45 US states to follow our lead. See more stories on Insider's business page.

We ended a human rights abuse in our five states. And now we, a bipartisan group of state legislators, call on lawmakers in the remaining 45 states to do the same. End child marriage - an archaic, sexist practice that destroys girls' lives - even if you get the pushback we got at first.

Unless you live in Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, or Rhode Island, child marriage is legal in your state. In our states, we partnered with the nonprofit organization Unchained At Last to close the dangerous legal loopholes that allowed it.

Child marriage is a nightmare of a legal trap. Nearly 300,000 children were married legally in the United States between 2000 and 2018, Unchained found. Most were girls wed to adult men with an average age difference of four years. Nearly all were age 16 or 17, though a few were as young as 10.

Even for the most mature 17-year-olds, marriage creates a nightmarish legal trap. They can be entered into marriage by a parent and/or a judge, with little or no input from them before they even have the basic legal rights to navigate a contract as serious as marriage.

Minors typically cannot leave home to escape from parents planning an unwanted wedding or leave an abusive spouse until they are 18. They also usually cannot enter a domestic violence shelter since these shelters usually turn away unaccompanied minors.

Children cannot easily retain an attorney, since contracts with children, including retainer agreements, typically are voidable. They usually cannot even file for divorce independently. Minors typically are not allowed to bring a legal action in their own name.

Even when it is not forced, marriage before 18 is a human rights abuse, according to the US State Department. It destroys nearly every aspect of American girls' lives, from their education and economic opportunities to their health. It also triples a girl's risk of experiencing domestic violence. Child marriage also undermines statutory rape laws. Some 60,000 marriages since 2000 occurred at an age or with a spousal age difference that should have been considered a sex crime, according to Unchained.

Don't cave to compromise. End child marriage. You probably will get opposition when you introduce the simple, commonsense legislation we introduced in our states, which eliminated the dangerous loopholes that allowed marriage before age 18. Do not compromise. Do not replace one loophole with another; insist on a marriage age of 18 - or higher if the age of adulthood is higher in your state - without exceptions.

There is no room for negotiation when you are ending a human rights abuse. You will hear, as we did, from legislators and others whose grandmothers married at 14. Remind them that the world has changed since grandma was a kid. You will hear arguments about young love. Respond by asking what harm comes to a young couple if they wait a matter of months to marry.

Minors must wait until 18 to enter almost any other contract, regardless of how passionately they feel about it. But what if a girl is pregnant, some will ask you. If the girl is too young to consent to sex, we should investigate a rape, not plan a wedding. Either way, we would be harming, not helping, if we married off pregnant girls.

Studies show teen mothers in the US who marry are more likely to suffer economic deprivation and instability than teen mothers who stay single. A teen mother who wants to co-parent with the father of the baby can easily do so outside of marriage. He can simply establish paternity, and his insurance and other benefits would cover the baby.

We no longer have illegitimacy laws that punish babies born "out of wedlock." Do not be swayed by the religious argument. We do not know of any religion that requires child marriage; actually, several major religions have supported legislation to end child marriage. Besides, the US Supreme Court has upheld laws that incidentally forbid an act required by religion, if the laws do not target religious practice.

Ending child marriage does not impact reproductive rights. The US Supreme Court has established that states should treat minors' abortions differently from minors' marriage, because the former is time sensitive while the latter is not.

Do not agree to a loophole that allows emancipated minors to be subjected to a human rights abuse. Emancipation is for teens who cannot be reunited with their parents; it gives them some rights of adulthood so they can fend for themselves. Teens do not need marriage to fend for themselves. Teens do not need marriage, period.

If they are in an abusive home or cannot get health insurance from their parents, they deserve resources that do not require them to enter a contractual sexual relationship. Under United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5.3, the US joined 192 other countries in promising to end child marriage by 2030.

We have achieved that goal in five states so far, despite initial resistance from our colleagues. Now we urge our fellow lawmakers in the 45 other states: Please join us.

Every child in the US is relying on us to keep our promise to the world and end all marriage before 18. No exceptions. No compromises.

Delaware Rep. Kim Williams

Delaware Former Sen. Anthony Delcollo

New Jersey Sen. Nellie Pou

New Jersey Asm. Nancy Munoz

Pennsylvania Rep. Perry Warren

Pennsylvania Rep. Jesse Topper

Pennsylvania Sen. John Sabatina

Minnesota Sen. Sandra Pappas

Minnesota Rep. Kaohly Her

Rhode Island Rep. Julie Casimiro

Rhode Island Sen. John Burke



## Appendix G. Teen Vogue article, May 10, 2018

“Delaware Became the First State to Ban Child Marriage and New Jersey Could be Next”



Child marriage may sound like a distant problem, but it's very real and very contemporary. Despite the way much of society may view the practice now, it's still technically legal in most of the United States. But there's a sign that the times are finally changing for kids in this country, because now, there's at least one state where minors can no longer be forced into marriage.

On Wednesday, May 9, Delaware Governor John Carney (D) signed H.B. 337 into law, a bill that made Delaware the first state in the country to ban child marriage. State Representative Kim Williams (D-Newport) introduced the bill, intent to set a firm age limit on marriage in the state at 18 years old.

“Children under 18 have no legal standing — they cannot file for divorce, utilize a domestic violence shelter, apply for a loan or open a credit card,” Representative Williams said in a statement. “They cannot enter any legal contract, but until this bill was signed, they could be married as a child without any way of escaping an abusive marriage. Now that we have closed this loophole in Delaware law, children will be protected from forced marriage and its dangerous consequences. I am so proud that Delaware is leading the way to protect children, and I hope that other states follow suit.”

Williams’s bill received bipartisan support; Senator Anthony Delcollo (R-Elsmere) was a primary sponsor of the bill, which passed through both houses before reaching the governor’s desk. It likely helped that advocates at Unchained at Last, an organization dedicated to ending arranged/forced marriages in the U.S., worked with lawmakers to provide compelling testimony and legal expertise to help them understand the sometimes devastating impact child marriage can have on a minor.

Unchained at Last is currently working on a similar child marriage ban bill in New Jersey, A865. If successful, the bill could help New Jersey become the second state to ban child marriage this year. The organization also partnered with Chelsea Clinton, whose work as an influential advocate and correspondent on the world stage comes at a strategic point in the debate, when states are passing legislation that outright bans child marriage for the first time ever.

When she met with Unchained at Last, Clinton told advocates, “The fact that child marriage is still legal in this country, I think should say to all of us we still have serious work to do here at home.” She also said it “really undermines our credibility as an advocate on the world stage for the rights of girls and women.” As recent studies continue to find evidence that child marriage is a human rights issue, both Democrats and Republicans increasingly grow to agree the current laws need to be changed.

## Appendix H. “The Kindness Project”

This is a project to help bring awareness to your rights to live in safety, health, and freedom. Keep this card as a reminder or share with someone who may need support getting out of exploitative or dangerous arrangements.

### THE KINDNESS PROJECT

This is a project to help bring awareness to your rights to live in safety, health, and freedom. Keep this card as a reminder or share with someone who may need support getting out of exploitive or dangerous arrangements.



**If you have questions or need help  
1-888-373-7888 or Text 233733**

### THE KINDNESS PROJECT

If you have questions or need help, please call if:

- Someone keeps your important ID's and records from you
- You are tricked to do dangerous or illegal work you did not agree to do
- You are forced to do sexual acts
- You can't go places without permission
- Your loved ones are threatened if you try to leave your situation
- You are abused or deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care if you do not work
- You are a minor engaging in sexual acts in exchange for safety, food, water, sleep, or medical care

CJC VOCA GRANT ID 2150

**If you have questions or need help  
1-888-373-7888 or Text 233733**

WHEN YOUR  
WORKDAY

**NEVER ENDS**

IS THIS YOU?

18 hour days? Forced to work  
for little or no pay and are not  
allowed to leave? You may be a  
victim of labor trafficking.

TO REPORT SUSPECTED HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING, CALL THE NATIONAL ANTI-  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING INFORMATION  
LINE

NATIONAL  
HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING  
HOTLINE

1-888-373-7888

**National Human Trafficking Hotline**

1-888-373-7888. We'll Listen. We'll Help. If you or someone you know is a victim of human trafficking, call now.

 National Human Trafficking Hotline



CUANDO TU  
DÍA DE TRABAJO

**NUNCA TERMINA**

¿ESTO ERES TÚ?

Si te obligan a trabajar por poco  
o ningún pago y no te permite  
salir a tu voluntad, puedes ser  
víctima de la trata de personas.

PARA REPORTAR LA SOSPECHA DE LA  
TRATA DE PERSONAS, LLAME A LA LÍNEA  
PARA INFORMANTES NACIONAL CONTRA  
LA TRATA DE PERSONAS

NATIONAL  
HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING  
HOTLINE

1-888-373-7888

**National Human Trafficking Hotline**

1-888-373-7888. We'll Listen. We'll Help. If you or someone you know is a victim of human trafficking, call now.

 National Human Trafficking Hotline

